بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Sciences of Qur'an
RKQS 2011

TAFSIR AND *TA'WIL*

Meaning
Difference
Significance
Classifications of Tafsir works
Symptoms
Examples

Tafsir: LITERAL MEANING

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- *Tafsir* (), to explain, to expound, to interpret etc.
- : detailed statement
- And they do not come to you with an argument except that We bring you the truth and the best explanation.

:TECHNICAL MEANING

- A discipline of knowledge that lead to understand the words of Allah which were revealed to His messenger Muhammad PBUH, an explanation of its meaning, extraction of its legislations and its wisdoms.

TA'WIL: literal meaning

- Literally: From , to return, to attribute.

:TECHNICAL MEANING

- A. Majority scholars said: same like *Tafsir*. Based on the Prophet PBUH's prayer for Ibn Abbas:
  - May Allah bestow him with expertise in religion matters and teach him *ta'wil*.
- B. Other scholars differentiate.

DIFFERENCES between *Tafsir* and *Ta'wil*

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Tafsir	*Ta'wil*
• Explanation based on NARRATION (*riwayah*) • Quoted from traditions or reports of Prophet, Companions, etc. *(al-naql al-masmu')* • They are the tribe of 'Aws and Khazraj	• Explanation based on CORRECT OPINION and UNDERSTANDING *(dirayah)* • Go forth, whether light or heavy, and strive with your wealth and your lives in the cause of Allah • A. youth and elderly • B. rich or poor • C. healthy or sick

CLASSIFICATION OF TAFSIR AND ITS SYMPTOMS

1. TAFSIR BI AL-MA'THUR (narrations)
2. TAFSIR BI AL-RA'I (opinions)
3. TAFSIR BI AL-ISHARAH (signs)

TAFSIR AL-MA'THUR- 1

- Qur’an by Qur’an
- Qur’an by Hadith
- Qur’an by Sahabah’s reports
- Qur’an by Tabi`un’s reports

EXAMPLES: QUR'AN BY QUR'AN

- It is explained in Al-Infitar 17-19.
  - (19(18) (17)
- And what can make you know what is the Day of Recompense? It is the Day when a soul will not possess for another soul [power to do] a thing; and the command, that Day, is [entirely] with Allah .

EXAMPLE: QUR'AN BY SUNNAH

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- (26 -
- For them who have done good is the best [reward] and extra. No darkness will cover their faces, nor humiliation. Those are companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally
- heaven
- Seeing Allah SWT

2. TAFSIR BI-AL-RA'I (opinion)

Pusannah Islamic Proceedings, Jawa Timur - Jan 2016

- Based on one's wise opinion, *Ijtihad* and judgment.
- Scholars' difference: to accept or to reject.
- Acceptable: balanced one.

:Two kinds

- A) *Ra'i al-Mahmud*: conforms to the Qur'an, Sunnah, objectives of shari`ah, Arabic language and its style.

- B) *Ra'i al-Madhmum*: against Mahmud. It is the *tafsir* by mere opinion.

:EXAMPLE

- 72
- 46

NOT THE EYES THAT IS BLIND.
IT IS THE HEART THAT IS BLIND.

3. TAFSIR AL-ISHARIY (signs)

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- Explanations based on indirect indications of the *ayat* of the Qur'an.
- They claim that only the enlightened slaves of Allah understand its meaning.

:EXAMPLES

- MOSES AND KHIDR:

65)

- And they found a servant from among Our servants to whom we had given mercy from us and had taught him from Us a [certain] knowledge.

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- And fear Allah . And Allah teaches you.

- Ayah of *Ma'idah* about the completion of Religion.

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- This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion.
- Everybody was happy with this *ayah*, but 'Umar.

End of topic